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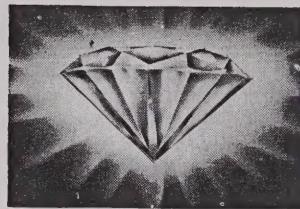
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1886-1961 First Baptist  
Church Wishek, North Dakota

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1886

1961



First Baptist Church

Wishek, North Dakota

" . . . from faith to faith"

Romans 1:17

41258

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## PREFACE

### 75th ANNIVERSARY - WISHEK, NORTH DAKOTA

In the Centennial year of our wonderful State, the First Baptist Church has witnessed 75 years of growth and prosperity. The church, through these years, has experienced the Lord's promise of "I will be with you, even unto the end."

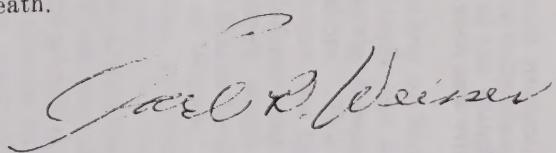
From a humble beginning of 15 members to the present membership of slightly over 200, we can say that God faithfully directed the way of His people. These, today, stand for the glorious witness of what the Lord has done, in adding to His church daily.

These figures do not fully tell the story of the labor expended during these past decades. Some who came to the knowledge of Christ, during this period of time have gone to their heavenly reward. While others have found residence in various parts of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Canadian Border to the Mexican Border. Most all of these have contributed in a significant way to the Spiritual work into which they have entered. The tremendous influence that has flowed forth from this church will only be told in the records of the "Book of Life."

The future may look dark in so many respects, for even now the war clouds are again threatening on the horizon of a world that is weary of the hot and cold wars waged by the nations of the world. This day is especially estranged by irresponsible leaders of godless atheism. At the present, it is not for us to know if we will witness another milestone in this church's history, so significant, yet we have the assurance that if we do not reach the earthly milestone, we will reach the higher and nobler goal, if we are faithful. We would say with the apostle Paul: "It is better to be with the Lord."

We praise God for His unending and everlasting grace. A wonderful grace that not only surpasses man's sin but draws man out of his darkness and into God's marvelous light of Eternity.

We give God the glory for his continued goodness and His undying love, for the past years. We praise Him for what He has permitted us to do. We thank Him for that which He will permit us to do "until He comes." May we be faithful as long as He lendeth us breath.



1886  1961

with the public. It is important to note that the public's interest in the environment is not limited to the natural environment, but also includes the built environment, such as parks and green spaces, and the built environment, such as buildings and infrastructure.

The environmental movement has been successful in raising awareness of environmental issues and in encouraging people to take action to protect the environment. This has led to significant improvements in the environment, such as cleaner air and water, reduced waste, and more sustainable practices.

However, the environmental movement has also faced challenges, such as political opposition and economic interests. The environmental movement has been successful in raising awareness of environmental issues and in encouraging people to take action to protect the environment. This has led to significant improvements in the environment, such as cleaner air and water, reduced waste, and more sustainable practices.

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## A BRIEF HISTORICAL SURVEY

The history of the First Baptist Church of Wishek, County of McIntosh, State of North Dakota.

(In order to keep the record straight, and the readers from confusion, let it be understood the word Danzig refers to the name of the church organization rather than to a location such as a village or town.)

This collection of historical data is dedicated to the memory of the pioneers of the First Baptist Church of Wishek, North Dakota. To those who sacrificed for and founded our Church, we give our tribute and praise. "They have kept the faith, they have fought the good fight, they have finished the race."

Early in 1875 when the settling of McIntosh County was in its beginning, people having friends and relatives who had immigrated from the village of Danzig, Russia settled near the present City of Tyndall, South Dakota. This created a desire for others from their homeland to follow, but finding the free land all taken, they, by the advice of federal land agents were directed further north into Dakota Territory, which was not encouraging. Nevertheless a little later about fifteen families settled about nine miles south of the present City of Wishek. Here they missed the church fellowship they had been accustomed to from whence they left, so they tried to unite with the Tyndall Danzig Church. In their dismay they went to the Lord with their problem, realizing that "the Lord's way is not our way and our way often not His way." They were a faithful people and soon by the leading of the Holy Spirit, a church organization became a reality in 1886. Fifteen families joined themselves together in fellowship, naming John Brokofsky as chairman and William Koth as secretary. The naming of their church followed a pattern of their earlier friends at Tyndall of honoring their homeland church, so they too used the name Danzig. These early settlers had a dialect of their own commonly known as "plad Deutsch," which having no script, they used the German Bible and language.

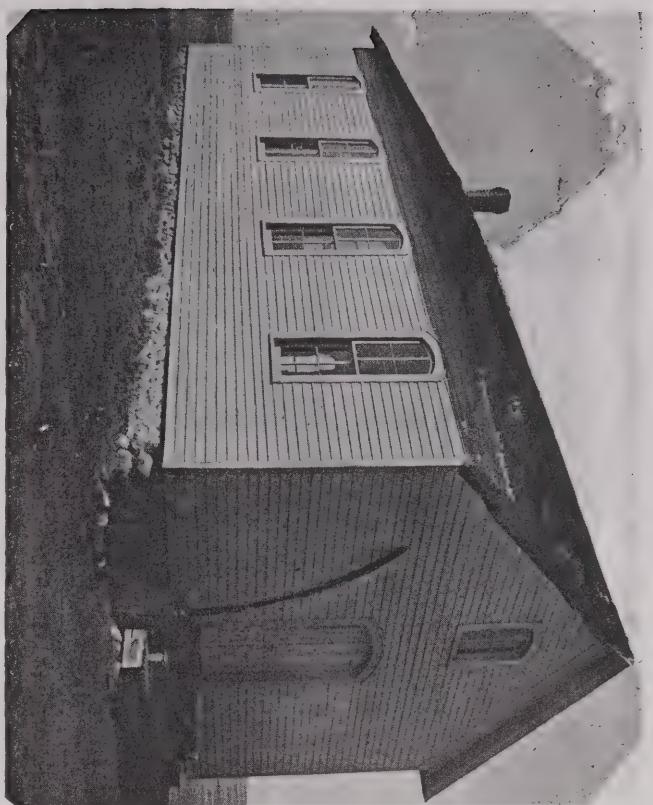
The Danzig church did affiliate itself with the Northwestern Baptist Conference in the year 1888. Twelve years later in 1900 this church along with all other Dakota Territory German Baptist churches were transferred in a division from Northwestern to the newly organized Dakota Conference.

It is very evident that spiritual as well as financial progress had been attained, because in the short span of fifteen years, in 1903 it became self supporting and was relinquished by the mission as a free church. Meetings were held in homes for six years and some leaders made personal visits which gained members into the church as far west as the Beaver Creek area. From this membership the desire to build a house of worship became pertinent, so they carried out their plans to build a wooden structure twenty-four by forty feet on a plot of three acres of land donated and deeded in 1892 by John J. Giebt. This was nine miles south of the now City of Wishek. The cost of this church was \$800 of which \$550 was raised locally and a loan of \$250 from the Baptist Home



In 1900 a group which had settled about six or seven miles west of the Village of Venturia had also been led to build a place of worship uniting with Danzig, naming their church after their home town in Russia (Kassel).

In 1903 the membership dwindled to almost half, partly due to drought, some becoming indifferent, not meeting their financial obligations, others succumbed to the Adventistic faith and moved out of the area. As the going became harder for the remnant, they thought the only solution to their problem would be to add another station. Soon it was found that a small group in Ashley were willing to fill this gap by joining themselves with Danzig, rather than with the church of Jewel, east of Ashley, with a station Johannessdal only six miles south of Ashley. Pastors do not like to live in rural areas, so it was that in this merger with Ashley, it was thought that to bring better living conditions for the pastor and family, the parsonage built in 1898 near the Danzig church, was moved to Ashley. This moving also gave access by rail to Danzig and Venturia, which was an advantage. The mov-



First Baptist Church building erected in area of Moscow Township called the Danzig Church in 1892

Mission Society, New York City through their gift mortgage plan, satisfaction thereof recorded on April 23, 1930.

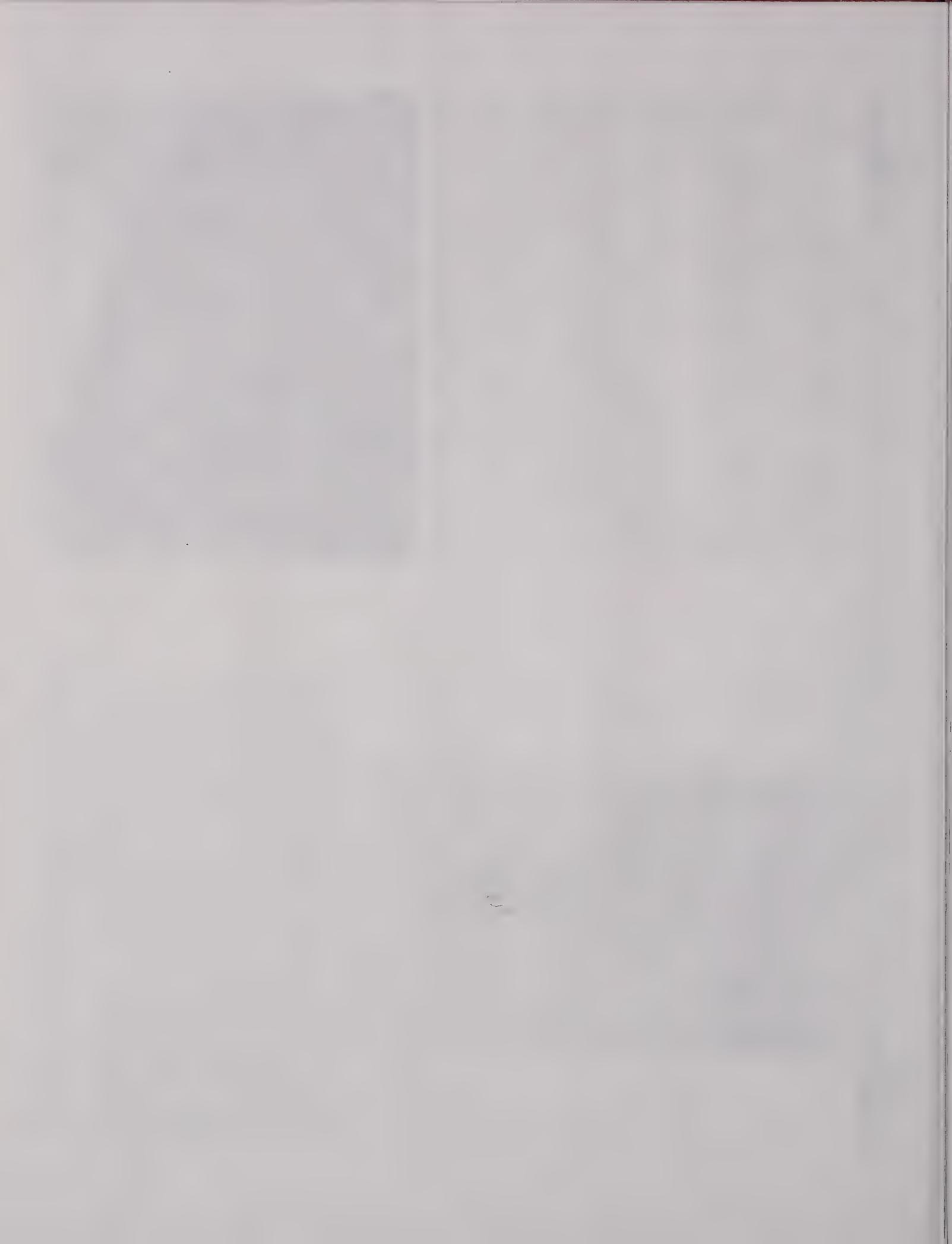
In 1898 Jacob Herr Sr. moved from the Beaver Creek area into the midst of this early settlement, purchasing land which had been homesteaded by Patrick J. Doyle, and replaced the old sod house by a wooden structure half a mile east of the church. Soon thereafter a fifteen acre tract was deeded, located on the southwest corner of his farm, one quarter mile south of the church, which became the location of the first parsonage. Here was erected a house, barn, and other out buildings, also a pasture was provided for the horses, since this was the only means of travel at this time. No mention is made of the cost or how it was defrayed.

In 1898 mention is also made of a station called Johannastadt with such names appearing on the record as Hagel, Kludt, Heib and Beitz. Nothing is said of a house of worship, but later when the Village of Venturia came into existence there appeared to be a church building one mile away and in 1910 was moved into the townsite proper.

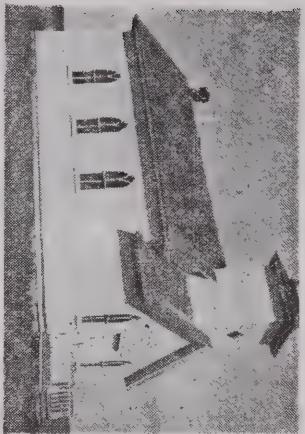
In 1898 mention is also made that Beaver Creek area was accepted as a station and such names started to appear on record as Geissler, Haas, Herr, Hust, Orth, Schultes, and Walker.



First Baptist Church built in Wishek, 1908



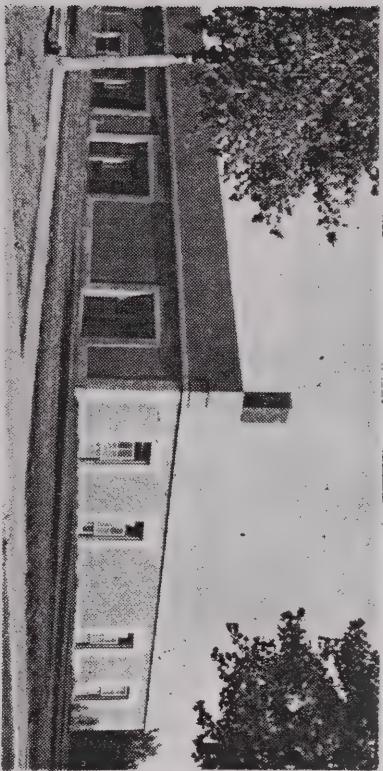
In 1908 the Beaver Creek Station, which had struggled since 1898 going up and down in membership, again made a sincere effort to build a house of worship, but their offer was tabled. This membership with such names as Herr, Kramer, and Woen, with several families under each name, when things became more stabilized, determined and succeeded in building their house of worship in 1912, the year of events.



Beaver Creek Church built in 1912

Ining of this parsonage was done by twenty teams of horses, the first moving of a house seen by the writer and people of this area. The merger with Ashley fared well until 1911 and early 1912 when it was dissolved with Danzig receiving \$1600 for their interests in the property.

In 1907 Jacob Herr Sr. retired from his farm to the Village of Wishek and early in 1908 gathered with the following group who became charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Herr Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Herr Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John G. Herr, Mr. and Mrs. August Herr, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Roeszler and Konrad Kogler. A place of worship was built and this station affiliated itself with Danzig. Two lots, the present site, was donated by the banker, John Wishek Sr., and on this was erected a wooden structure twenty-four by forty feet. This was at a cost of \$2162, a balance of \$300 unpaid after dedication was loaned from the Baptist Home Mission Society, New York City, through their gift mortgage plan, satisfaction thereof recorded on April 28, 1928.



Basement Church built in 1935 - served as church until 1949 when present superstructure was completed.

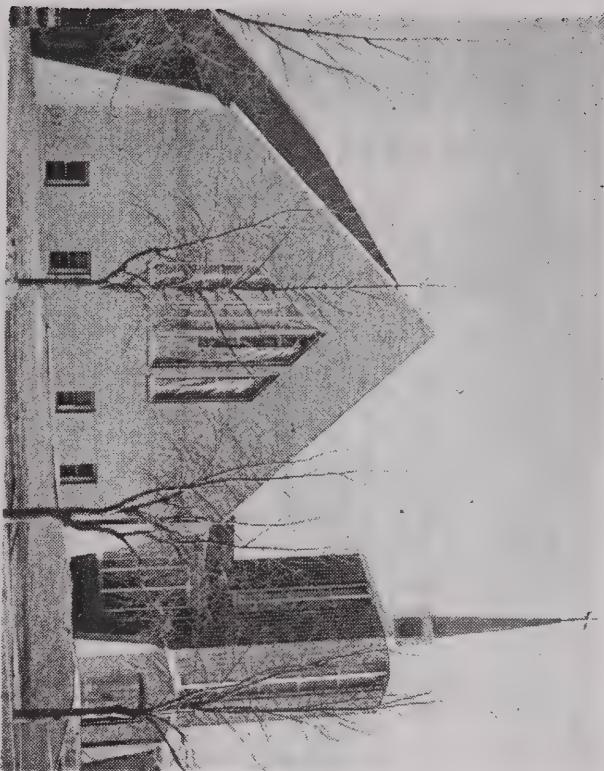
Again in 1912 they found themselves taking on other territory when they accepted the Burnstad station with such names as Fandrich, Grenz, Harr, Hirsch, Ilorning, Witt, and Wolf. A church was purchased in Burnstad and twenty-three years later in 1935 it dissolved, the building was sold to another denomination and moved to Napoleon.

In 1918, not desiring more stations, nevertheless yielding to a group of Baptists who had settled in and around Napoleon, a building was bought and remodeled to fit their requirements and became a station of Danzig. On July 1, 1941 they withdrew to become an organization of their own known as the Baptist Church of Napoleon. In 1918 such names as Grenz, Hirsch, Lachennier, Oldenberger, Rott, and Zimmerman were on record.

In 1922 several years after the Village of Danzig, located four miles east of the Mother church, came into existence, some of the early settlers and members of the Church had reached the height of their ambition, a town was named after their church. They were well determined that a station of the church be opened there. They prevailed until they were accepted, using the school house as a place of worship. It was only of short duration from 1922 to 1924 when it was dissolved.

1930. A document appears of record in Logan and McIntosh Counties changing by order of the church membership its name from Danzig Baptist Church to German Baptist Church of Wishek, with headquarters at Wishek.

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Present house of worship of First Baptist Congregation

Dedicated July 2, 1950

1935. The membership became very conscious of the fact that the old 1908 wooden church structure became inadequate and obsolete. It was then decided to remove it and replace it with a larger concrete basement building on the same original location at a cost of \$6,000. Soon thereafter with good roads and the automobiles making distance no object, and the older members having retired to Wishek, the remaining members in the two rural churches realized how much more could be accomplished, discontinued their service, first in Danzig in 1940 and Beaver Creek in 1949, all assembling themselves in the Wishek basement house for worship.

1949. A document appeared on record in McIntosh County again changing the name from German Baptist Church of Wishek to the First Baptist Church of Wishek.

After waiting thirteen years from 1935 to 1949 having made much gain financially as well as spiritually, yielded to the will of the Lord bringing about the erection of the complete church edifice from sixty-four feet to eighty feet, adding a beautiful tower to become the way of entry. This was accomplished by a faithful membership at a cost of \$78,520 with the dedication to our Lord and Master on July 2, 1950. After the basement was built in 1935 the church immediately resorted to higher hopes and

aspirations bringing into action a systematical building fund, and over this period of years \$53,520 had been raised, leaving a debt of \$25,000 which was fully paid at the close of 1960 and the final note burning was this spring by the Rev. E. J. Faul officiating, during whose time the church was built and the debt incurred.

1955. The willingness of its members is apparent by the progress to the physical part and firmly believing that if a church stands still, it will ultimately spell death. To live is our hope and the building fund carried on to retire the new church building installments, yielded much more and soon a nice balance had accumulated, resulting in further building program. This time the old parsonage built in 1912 was sold at a sacrifice price and moved off in order to retain the original site, replacing with a new modern ranch type with all the conveniences and accommodations to be enjoyed by our present and future pastors. The cost of erection was \$31,181 and at the time of dedication in 1955 a balance remained unpaid in the amount of \$13,500 covered by a mortgage held in trust for six members who loaned the money of which \$900 is paid and renewed in the amount of \$12,600 to be paid in ten equal installments.

#### Properties Now Owned By The Church

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Church Building, Lots 7 & 8, Block 24, Wishek, value . . .   | \$90,000          |
| Fixtures, musical instruments, and equipment . . . . .   | 15,000            |
| Parsonage building, Lots 11 & 12, Block 29, Wishek . . .   | 31,182            |
| Plot of ground acquired 1892, 3 acres situated on S. E. quarter Section 28, Township 131, Range 71. Plot of ground acquired 1912, acres not described, situated on SE Quarter, Sec. 4-131-72. These two plots of ground are in McIntosh County, and these are the original cemeteries of Danzig and Beaver Creek stations, platted, numbered and certified charts are on file. The unused lots are available to members. . . . . | No Value Declared |

Total value of church property . . . . . \$136,182

Sixteen pastors have served this church and listed below as follows:

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Rev. Berthold Matzke 1888-1892   | Rev. Christian Bischof             |
| Rev. J. Marks . . . . . 1892-1894  | Rev. August Heringer 1903-1909     |
| Rev. George Burgdorf 1895-1896 (occasional visits)                               | Rev. C. M. Knapp . . . 1928-1932   |
| Rev. Jacob Herman . . . 1897-1899 (ordained by the church following his arrival) | Rev. B. W. Krentz . . . 1933-1937  |
| Rev. Edward Wolf . . . 1899-1901   | Rev. Albert Itteman 1937-1942      |
| Rev. H. Hilzinger . . . 1902-1903 (5th Sunday from Eureka)                       | Rev. J. C. Gunst . . . 1942-1944   |
|  | Rev. Arthur Weisser 1944-1948      |
|  | Rev. Ervin J. Faul . . . 1949-1951 |
|  | Rev. Loren O. Wahl 1952-1960       |
|  | Rev. Carl R. Weisser 1961          |



Eight young men and one young woman who were willing to listen to the wooing of the Holy Spirit which never ceases in doing the work of the Father here upon earth, were led into the service of their Lord and Master, are as follows:

William Geidt, 1909, Missionary to China  
1925 Seminary Julius Herr, ordained pastor 1931  
1932 Bible School Edna Stading Thomas, pastor's wife, 1934  
1935 Seminary Richard Grenz, ordained pastor 1940  
1938 Seminary Gideon Zimmerman, ordained pastor 1943  
1941 Seminary Ben Zimmerman, ordained pastor 1945  
1945 Seminary Rueben Stading, ordained pastor 1951  
Howard and Ethel Stein, prepared for missionary service  
1959 Seminary student Roger Herr  
1959 Seminary student Harvey Mehlhaff

The pleading of our Saviour still is, "the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few." Who will be next to hear and follow?

#### THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The following are some of the highlights as well as the down grading ends of the spiritual life of the church. We have tried well to cover the outward appearance of this church, its progress and achievements. If what has been accomplished outwardly reveals unto others the inner life of its members, then many shall still come to Him who is the light of the world, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Then and then only have we attained the purpose of our high calling and our labors have not been in vain.

With all the preaching stations as well as in homes the spiritual outreach went as far as Ashley, Burnstad, Napoleon, and Venturia, including all rural areas of these towns and a great number of our membership transferred from here bringing influence to many other parts of our great nation.

To read from early records to this, the seventy-fifth year, a story very strange to the unsaved is revealed, but to those who know the Lord it is understandable.

Very vividly you can read of spiritual victories won against sin and the ever increasing temptations of this our world, with its fantastic conclusions bringing so much confusion trying to mislead even the faithful. It is often said that church, the place of Worship, is the place where the aggressor, often called the devil, is the busiest, and so we too report that many individuals of the membership which has come and gone over this great period, were caught up by this aggressor and by him entangled, in the confusion being dragged down into the mire of shame and sin to be cut off from that living water which Christ gave that woman at Jacob's well. This living water can cleanse and purify

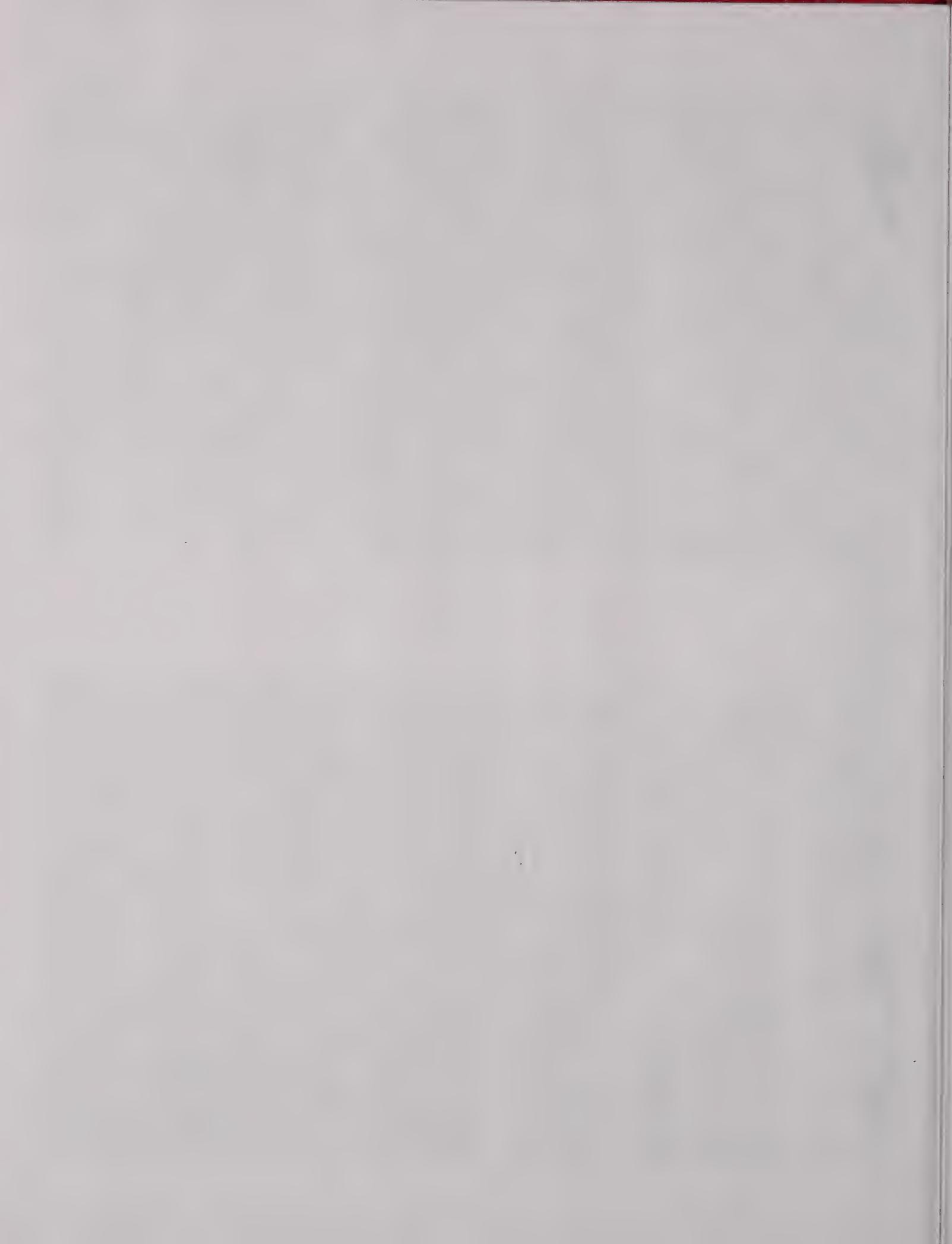
the soul so it shall never thirst again, but there were those who would not be led in the spiritual way, by the word of God. Others having the same temptations also receiving admonition by the church, heeded it as good advice and in their struggle with the help of the church and God became victors and in turn helped themselves as well as others to the way of life eternal. Only eternity will tell of this influence when it will be revealed. The numbers in membership in its ups and downs, shows that progress can be made. The fifteen beginning members up to the time of the silver anniversary had come to 236 and the next period to the golden anniversary it had dropped to as low as ninety-three and up again to two hundred and fifty-seven, and in the third period from the golden to the diamond jubilee, to a lower number of one hundred ninety-four. The earlier attraction of free land is gone, and the industrial not yet developed, so the younger generation is looking for other fields of labor and of course for greener pastures. This is the main reason for our membership decline. The last twenty-five year period there was no trouble with the legalistic movement, the Sabbath which confused so many in the first period, seeking to do the right thing, were made to believe and led in that direction, succumbed to the aggressor, the devil. It is a story of victory going forward in the Lord Jesus our Saviour, on His day rather than the day given to the children of Israel. In a further study of the seventy-five years in the church minutes, it is sensed that in this church, as in practically all others, mammon is the root of all evil, and had quenched the spirit in many lives, created the church problems and brought heartache to those not guarding well against the same.

The church branches which are listed elsewhere are well staffed with teachers and leaders to deal with the spiritual problems so that every member may become well versed and firm, growing in grace and the word of God. A library has been established in the church to supply good Christian literature and books with the aim of the edification of the soul, building good character in those that will avail themselves of its use.

In conclusion we think of those who have gone before, many had clung tight to the Saviour's hand to be led, gained victory after victory overcoming the world, while others struggled with their problems, were saved as out of a burning fire.

To us who remain in this dark age, speaking from a human standpoint, the future is as if it were veiled and surely not a bright one. If however, our faith is in a great God, we too shall overcome the world being victorious through Him, then this Church shall be a shining light ever marching toward that goal.

To those who will remain, and should our Lord and Master tarry for a quarter of a century, what a glorious history they could write!





#### CHURCH ADVISORY BOARD

Reading left to right: back row, Carl Goehring (T), Henry Bartesch (D), Rev. Carl Weisser, Pastor, Arthur Bender, chairman (D), Elmer Schauer (T), Vernon W. Herr, clerk; front row: Mrs. Gottlieb Herr (DS), Edward Herr (DS), John J. Meidinger (D), Mrs. Marvin Schilling, general superintendent. Missing: Dave Aipperspach (D), Ervin Rudolf, chairman (T). (T)—Trustee (D)—Deacon (DS)—Deaconess

#### ABOUT OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Due to lack of records, little is known concerning the organization of the Wishelk Baptist Sunday School prior to 1922. However we do know that the Sunday School was divided into three groups. One teacher taught the younger children and the German alphabet until they knew it thoroughly; another teacher taught the older group how to read. When they could read well, they were graduated into the third group which consisted of all the people who attended church, irrespective of age. The only material used was the German ABC book and the "Lektions Blaetter." Later the large picture roll was added and small memory cards were given to the children. Only four of the early superintendents are known: John Herr, Jacob Herr Sr., Jacob Herr Jr., and Jacob Schmieder. The first known list of teachers were: John Gashke, Katherine Herr, Ernest Herr, Edward Herr, John Koth, Mrs. Jacob Kramer Sr., and Jacob Hilscher.

Our records begin with 1922. By this time the Sunday School was divided into seven groups. At the first meeting of that year there were 87 members present, and offering amounted to eighty cents. During this time our children's classes changed from learning the German alphabet to stories of Jesus and His love for them.



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND OFFICERS

Top row left to right: W. H. Mehlhaff (AT), Rev. Carl Weisser (T), Arthur Bender (T), Gideon Herr (AT), Charles Bettenthalen (AT), Ernest W. Herr (T), Mrs. Emil Herr (T), Mrs. Edna Ritter (T). Second row: Wm. Moser (Ass't Sup't), Floyd Herr (Treas.), Dale Ketterling (Sec.), Mrs. Dave Aipperspach (T), Mrs. David Quatier (Jr. Dept. Supt.), Jean Ritter (P), Mrs. Vernon Herr (T), Mrs. Carl Weisser (AT).

Third row: Mrs. Marvin Schilling (General Supt.), J. J. Kramer (T), Mrs. Elmer Schauer (T), Mrs. Wilbur Ammon (AT), Mrs. Edward Herr (AT), Bernice Bettenthalen (P), Mrs. Otto Woehl (T), Mrs. Ernest W. Herr (T), Mrs. Oliver Bettenthalen (AT).

First row: Douglas Kramer (AP), Mrs. Dale Ketterling (Ass't Supt. Jr. Dept.), Cynthia Quatier (AT), Mrs. Godfrey Herr (T), Mrs. Ervin Rudolf (AT), Mrs. Peter Hagel (AT), Mrs. Charles Bettenthalen (T), Mrs. Vernon Kramer (T).

(T)—Teacher (AT)—Assistant Teacher (P)—Pianist (AP)—Assistant Pianist

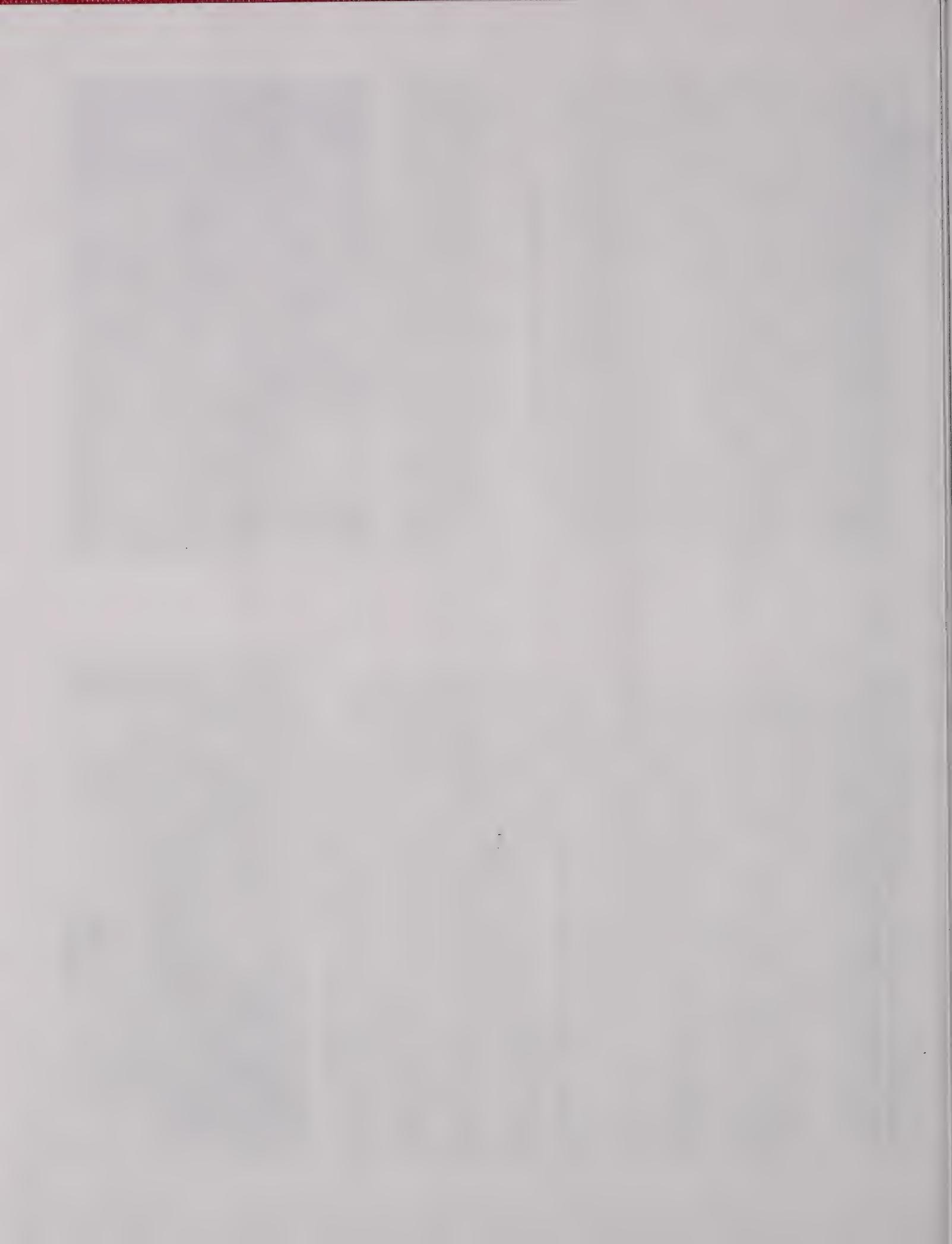
This greatly interested the children and attendance was increased.

Since 1922 the following have served as Sunday School Superintendents: Edward Herr, Gottlieb Herr, William Stading, David Quatier, Ernest Herr, Vernon Herr, Elmer Schauer, Dr. W. H. Mehlhaff, and Mrs. Marvin Schilling.

In studying the various records and reports of the Sunday School we find that our Sunday School has greatly improved. For his we give God the honor and glory. For truly without His guiding hand we could not go forward in this teaching ministry of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Since the year 1953 we have a total of twelve classes — a class for every age.

At the present time we have an enrollment of 203 pupils.

We are using a pin system for perfect attendance in the Junior department. This past year we had 23 children with perfect attendance in this department. There are quite a few adults with perfect attendance records.



Our Scripture Memory work has been very profitable for our students. So far six young people have completed the entire nine year course. Last year our enrollment was 33. We use a pin, wreath and bar system of awards for completed work. As a grand award each pupil finishing the course is sent to our Crystal Springs Youth Camp by the Sunday School.

A brief report of our finances: The past year our receipts were \$1,443.18; expenditures \$2,042.37. Mission money sent out amounted to \$512.60. In varying amounts money was sent to the following: Children's Village, Gospel Missionary Union, Crystol Springs Youth Camp, North American Baptists, Ministry of the Interior of Chile, World Vision and our field with the Canadian Indians. This past year our Sunday School redecorated the church basement, added drapes to our class room windows, purchased a large utility cabinet and eight chairs, replaced two class room table tops and donated one hundred dollars toward remodeling the church kitchen.

Daily Vacation Bible School is usually held the first week in June. The enrollment this last June was 47 students. Mrs. Floyd Herr was dean and was assisted by thirteen teachers. D.V.B.S. offering amounted to \$42.31 which was sent to Mexico for the purchase of Bible School material there. With joyful hearts we are happy to report that three of our students accepted Christ as their personal Saviour during our last D.V.B.S. session.

One tradition of the Sunday School which we still acknowledge is our Birthday Offering. Every person having a birthday may bring an offering during our Devotional period, and in return receive a souvenir from the Sunday School. This offering is put into our mission fund and disbursed at the close of the year to Mission projects. In earlier years our birthday offering was used to support Robert Jam, a native Missionary in our Cameroon field in Africa, and two student teachers preparing for the mission work in the same field.

The Sunday School sponsors a Christmas and Promotion program every year. Our Christmas program consists of every class contributing a number, which in turn gives a well planned program telling forth the wonderful birth of Christ. The Promotion Program is usually given the last Sunday in June. Perfect attendance awards promotion certificates and scripture memory awards are given to those who have earned them the previous year.

Our Workers' Conference was organized in 1941 under the leadership of our pastor, Rev. J. C. Gunst. We urge not only teachers and officers to attend our meetings but all interested in Sunday School work. We meet once a month with the Superintendent in charge. The chief function of the Conference is the improvement of the Sunday School and teachers' work. The

past twenty years we have had twenty study courses. Many of our teachers have taken all of these courses and are proud owners of a Teacher's diploma issued from our headquarters at Forest Park, Ill.

The Adult English class known as the Friendly Worker's Class was an organized class for ten years (1947-1957). It had many projects, namely: sending birthday cards to our missionaries in Africa, sponsored the outdoor bulletin board donated by Dr and Mrs. W. H. Mehlhaff, Dollar Sunday for class room equipment, planting five acres of potatoes, the highway church sign, towel dispensers in rest rooms, 16 MM movie projector, starting the church library, and building the cabinets for the library books. This class donated eight hundred dollars for the rugs on the platform, choir loft and church aisles, had mite boxes, self-denial offerings, a hat sale, and for many years seeded flax and donated all profit toward the Parsonage Building fund. Upon disbanding as an organized class we can truly say it has been ten years of good fellowship and fun.

Upon disbanding the Friendly Worker's Class another organization was formed known as the Young Adult Class. This class meets quarterly in business session. The first project was the purchasing of rubber inserts for the communion cup holders in the church. The big project at the present time is a mission pledge of twenty-five dollars monthly for the support of the Rev. Elmer Brenneise family, Missionaries in Mexico. The class corresponds with them monthly. It is an experience of real joy and spiritual blessing to be able to have a part in mission work in this way.

Upon the celebration of our church's 75th anniversary we humbly bow before God to say, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

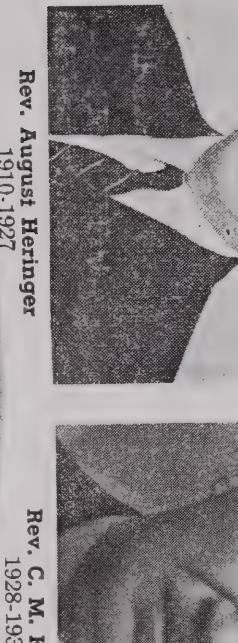
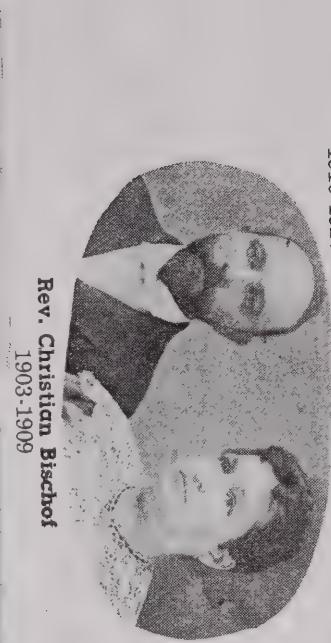
The last Sunday School meeting in the Wishek Station wood frame building was on May 19, 1935. We had 13 visitors that day and 112 members attended. The offering was \$5.35.

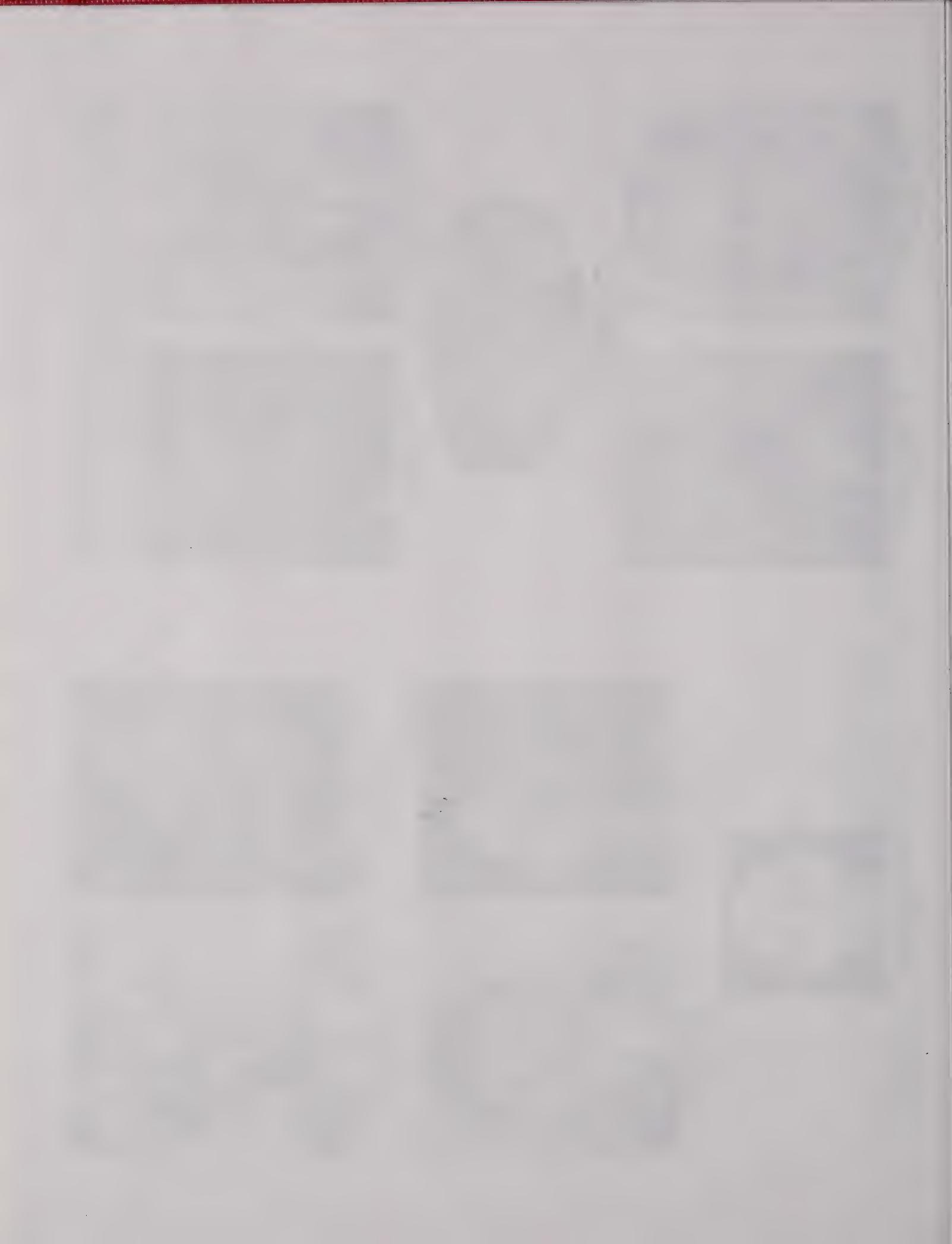
The church entertained the Dakota Conference four times in its 75 years of serving Christ.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Psalm 127:1



Pictures of pastors not available prior to 1903 are listed: Rev. Berthold Matzke, 1888-1892; Rev. J. Marks, 1892-1894; Rev. George Burgoorf, 1895-1896; Rev. Jacob Herman, 1897-1899; Rev. Edward Wolf, 1899-1901; Rev. H. Hitzinger, 1902-1903.





# Program

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 12, 1961

1886 1961

## MONDAY EVENING ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

November 13, 1961

|               |                          |                               |                   |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| PRELUDE       | .....                    | .....                         | Mrs. E. W. Herr   |
| DOXOLOGY      | .....                    | .....                         |                   |
| INVOCATION    | .....                    | Carl R. Weisser               |                   |
| HYMN          | .....                    | “All Hail The Power”          |                   |
| SCRIPTURE     | : Matt. 16:13-19         | .....                         | Rev. Stading      |
| MESSAGE:      | “I Will Build My Church” | .....                         | Dr. R. E. Powell  |
| CHOIR         | .....                    | “Praise Ye The Father”        |                   |
| PRAYER        | .....                    | Rev. B. W. Krentz             |                   |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | .....                    | .....                         |                   |
| OFFERING      | .....                    | For Missions                  |                   |
| HYMN 140      | .....                    | “The Church’s One Foundation” |                   |
| HYMN 278      | .....                    | “My Faith Looks Up To Thee”   | N. A. B. Seminary |
| BENEDICTION   | .....                    | .....                         |                   |
| POSTLUDE      | .....                    | .....                         |                   |

## SUNDAY EVENING ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

|               |       |                      |                 |
|---------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------|
| PRELUDE       | ..... | .....                | Mrs. E. W. Herr |
| HYMN 218      | ..... | “The Solid Rock”     |                 |
| WELCOME       | ..... | Rev. Carl R. Weisser |                 |
| SCRIPTURE     | ..... | Rev. Robert Hoffman  |                 |
| PRAYER        | ..... | Harvey Mehlhaff      |                 |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | ..... | .....                |                 |
| OFFERING      | ..... | .....                |                 |

|  |       |                             |   |
|--|-------|-----------------------------|---|
| CHOIR                                      | ..... | “Let Mount Zion Rejoice”    |   |
| GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS AND CHURCHES | ..... | .....                       |   |
| LADIES’ SEXTET                             | ..... | “I Am Not Worthy”           | Mrs. W. Ammon, Mrs. V. Herr, Mrs. A. Bender, Mrs. M. Schilling, Mrs. G. Herr, Mrs. M. Hoffman |
| READING OF CHURCH HISTORY                  | ..... | “How Firm A Foundation”     | Mrs. Vernon W. Herr   |
| HYMN 212                                   | ..... | .....                       | MESSAGE: Matt. 5:13-16 “The Most Influential People”  |
| HYMN 50                                    | ..... | “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” | ..... Dr. R. E. Powell  |
| BENEDICTION                                | ..... | .....                       | MESSAGE, “Our Church - Our Mission”   |
| POSTLUDE                                   | ..... | .....                       | Rev. J. C. Gunst  |

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Wednesday, November 15, 1961

|  |       |                         |
|--|-------|-------------------------|
| MASTER OF CEREMONIES                   | ..... | Ernest Herr             |
| CHORUS                                 | ..... |                         |
| PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING                 | ..... | Rev. C. Weisser         |
| CHURCH FAMILY DINNER                   | ..... |                         |
| SINGSPIRATION                          | ..... |                         |
| REMARKS BY OLDER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH | ..... |                         |
| DUET (German)                          | ..... | Mr. and Mrs. M. Hoffman |
| MESSAGE, “Our Church - Our Mission”    | ..... | Rev. J. C. Gunst        |
| HYMN                                   | ..... | “God Be With You”       |
| POSTLUDE                               | ..... |                         |





**CHOIR**

Reading left to right beginning with back row: Rev. Carl Weisser, LeRoy Hagel, Gary Weisser, Jerry Moser, Dwight Herr, Du Wayne Ketterling

Ernest W. Herr, Vernon W. Herr, Arthur Bender, Michael Herr, William Moser, Melvin Hoffman, Charles Bettenhausen, Mrs. Melvin Hoffman, choir director; Mrs. Ernest W. Herr, pianist; Mrs. W. H. Mehlhaff, Mrs. Marvin Schilling, Mrs. Vernon Herr, Mrs. Charles Bettenhausen, Mrs. Peter Hagel, Mrs. Godfrey Herr, Mrs. Bernice Bettenhausen, Mrs. William Moser, Cynthia Quatier, Jean Ritter, Mrs. Arthur Bender, Mrs. George Herr, Mrs. Edward Herr.

## MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

Throughout the years, the Lord has always blessed our church with much musical talent. Since the first years the senior choir has been active and a blessing in the service. Much of the success of its service is credited to faithful directors and pianists.

In the later years we have had several Junior Choirs, Men's and Women's Choirs, Quartettes, Trios, Sextettes, Girls' Chorus, and instrumental music in solos and groups.

During the past years many cantatas and musical programs have been given to the glory of God and to the blessings of the hearers.

The church at present has many active musical groups including Sr. and Jr. Choirs. The church has two pianos, including a Grand piano in the sanctuary and a church model Hammond organ.

Mrs. August Herr, left, and Mrs. Gottlieb Herr, right, are the only living charter members of the W.M.S.

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

On July 22, 1914 seven women gathered in the Baptist Parsonage to organize into a Mission Society. The following were present: Mrs. John Schmierer, Mrs. Lydia Herr, Mrs. Gottlieb Herr, Mrs. John Herr, Mrs. August Herr, Mrs. Jacob Schmierer, and Mrs. August Heringer. Mrs. John Schmierer was elected president; Mrs. August Heringer, vice-president; Mrs. Lydia Herr, secretary; and Mrs. Jacob Schmierer, treasurer.

The purpose and aim of the society is five-fold, namely: to acquaint itself with missions the world over, to foster the spirit of Christian Fellowship and unity, to support and promote the work of the church, to acquire Bible knowledge, to visit the sick and help the poor.

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

The W.M.S. has always shown interest in worthwhile enterprises, as, visiting the sick and shut-ins and on special days they were remembered with fruit and candy. Too, the visiting members would have a short time of devotions with the ones visited. A total of 7,534 sick calls have been made during the 75 years.

During World War II over 200 packages of food and clothing were sent direct to Europe for relief. During this same period of time, and some time after the war, used clothing was sent to the Forest Park office for European relief. Even now clothing





is sent to the Mission fields of the Canadian Indians, Spanish Americans in Colorado and World Vision. Contributions of money are sent to CARE and the Red Cross.

Mission giving has been foremost in the work of the society. Special gifts have been given to the various mission projects of the denomination. A tidy sum was contributed to the Nurses' Training School in the Cameroon Mission field, and a contribution was made this past year to the Chapel that was erected for Leperous patients at the New Hope Settlement. The White Cross quota, for the Cameroon field, is also regularly met. The work of missions and the church rank high on the prayer list of the members.

The other institutions of the denomination remembered are: Crystal Springs Baptist Youth Camp with food and funds; the Home for the Aged in Bismarck with money, bed furnishings, food, Thanksgiving turkey, Christmas cheer for each guest of



#### **WOMEN'S MISSION SOCIETY**

Reading left to right beginning with top row: Mrs. Vernon Kramer, Mrs. Carl Weisser, Mrs. Emil Miller, Mrs. Henry Bertsoh, Mrs. Julius Ritter, Mrs. T. T. Donner (secretary) Mrs. Melvin Hoffman, Mrs. William Herr, Mrs. J. J. Meidinger, Mrs. Fred Bender, Mrs. William Ulmer Mrs. C. J. Herr, Mrs. W. H. Mehlhaff, Mrs. Charles Bettehausen (vice-president) Mrs. Peter Hagel, Mrs. Godfrey Herr (president) Mrs. Reuben Kettering, Mrs. Gottlieb Herr (charter member), Mrs. Carl Goenring, Mrs. William Moser, Mrs. George Herr, Mrs. Edward Herr (treasurer) Missing: Mrs. Dave Aipperspach, Mrs. Emanuel Donner, Mrs. Emanuel Herr, Mrs. J. J. Kramer, Mrs. Ervin Rudolf, Mrs. Phillip Schauer, Mrs. Emil Herr, Mrs. David Quatier Inactive: Mrs. Christ Hiller, Mrs. Henry Hagel, Mrs. A. W. Herr (charter member)

the home; the Children's Home (while in existence); The American Bible Society, the Wishek hospital and others.

From time to time the servicemen and those called into God's Special service were remembered at Christmas time.

Throughout the years many special programs and missionary teas were given. To these events many of the neighboring Mission Societies were invited.

The society entertained the Public school faculty, Sunday school teachers and officers, choir members and C.B.Y.F. groups, at various occasions. The W.M.S. sponsored Church Fellowship dinners for the members and friends.

In 1945 the two societies known as Beaver Creek and Wishek united into one group. The present membership is 32.

The first \$1,200, given towards the present church building was given by the W.M.S. In 1949 an additional \$1,700 was given to the building fund of the church, besides buying the equipment for the kitchen, at the time the new church was erected. One year ago the kitchen was remodeled and a contribution of \$341 was given for this work.

In 1954 the Society observed the 40th anniversary. Some of the neighboring churches were present for the luncheon and the festive occasion.

Of the seven charter members of the society living are: Mrs. Gottlieb Herr and Mrs. August Herr.

Mrs. A. W. Herr is the only charter member of the Wishek Station still living and in our fellowship.

Samuel Stading, Mrs. Gottlieb Herr, Mrs. August Herr and Mrs. T. T. Donner have had continuous membership in our church for fifty years or more. To our knowledge only three couples of our church membership had Golden Wedding Anniversaries during our 75 years. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Geidt, Mr. and Mrs. William Stading, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hagel were blessed by our Lord in this way.

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 48:14



SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE CHURCH  
who have gone from our congregation to spread the gospel.



**William Geidt**  
Missionary to China, 1909



**Rev. Richard Grenz**  
Ordained - 1940



**Rev. Julius Herr**  
Ordained - 1931



**Edna Stading Thomas**  
Pastor's Wife



**Rev. Gideon Zimmerman**  
Ordained - 1943



**Reuben Stading**  
Ordained



**Senior in Seminary**  
**Roger Herr**

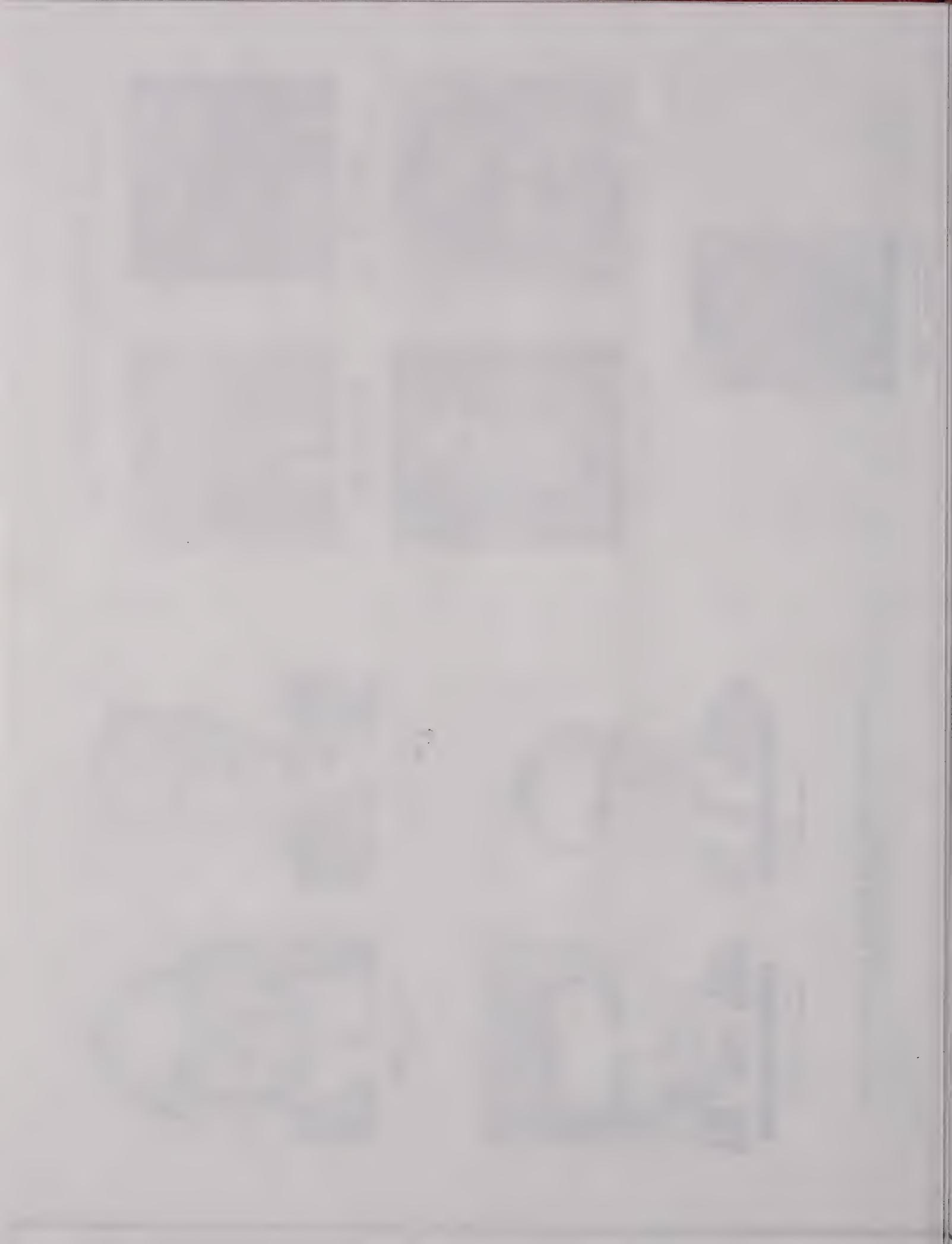


**Senior in Seminary**  
**Harvey Mehlhaff**



**Benjamin Zimmerman**  
Ordained - 1945

Howard and Ethel Stein prepared for missionary service.  
(Picture not available)



committee visited her and brought a small gift each time. Other shut-ins have been remembered on their birthdays.

The last five years the society has been responsible for the flower arrangements in the church sanctuary.

Annual programs have been given in church. These consisted of pageants, musical programs, special films, and last year the society presented the church two new large flags. Each program has been followed with a Fellowship Hour and hobby displays.

Social meetings have been: annual family picnics, outings to Camp Grassick and to Jamestown Crippled Children's school, Home for the Aged in Bismarck, family Christmas parties, and sleigh rides.

At present our membership is nine and we meet every second Tuesday evening of the month. The present president is Mrs. Phyllis Bender.



#### DORCAS SOCIETY

Left to right, back row: Mrs. Peter Hagel (secretary), Mrs. Carl Weisser, Mrs. Vernon Herr (treasurer), Mrs. Ernest Herr, Mrs. Arthur Bender (president)  
Front row: Mrs. Otto Woehl, Mrs. Wilbert Ammon (vice president), Mrs. Marvin Schilling, Mrs. Gerald Bailey

#### THE DORCAS SOCIETY

In February 1924 a group of five girls: Eleanor Herr (Mrs. Gerald Bailey), Eleanor Heringer, Margaret Herr, Priscilla Herr, and Viola Stading Kautz organized the "Sunshine Club" later re-named Dorcas Society. First officers were: Eleanor Heringer, president; Eleanor Herr, vice-president; Margaret Herr, secretary; and Viola Stading, treasurer. After a few months Adina Herr was asked to be club advisor.

The purposes of the club are: to increase spiritual and religious life, to help the needy, sick or aged, to aid in the support of the local church and missionary projects.

The Missionary projects consist of donations to: orphanages, leper sanitoriums, Florence Crittenden Home, local individual charities, Wishek hospital, CARE packages, Indian, African, Japanese, and other foreign Mission Fields, including White Cross work.

Locally we have purchased for our church: Hymn books, Offering Plates, Bulletin Boards, Flower Stands, Winter Boughs, Dishes, and have made cash donations toward the purchase of pianos and the library books and equipment. In 1950 we donated to the church building fund \$450 to pay for the Baptistry picture and wall paintings. Contributions were made to the Parsonage Building fund also.

During Eleanor Stading's illness of many years, she was remembered at Christmas and on her birthday, and each month a

#### COMMISSIONED BAPTIST YOUTH

The B.Y.P.U. was organized in 1926 under the leadership of Rev. A. Heringer. There were twelve charter members and Ernest Herr was the first president. The meetings were conducted in the German language, but later they were changed to the English language.

The Constitution was revised in 1940 while Rev. Itterman was serving as pastor. Some time later a Junior Young Peoples union was organized, but the Junior and Senior B.Y.'s were combined into one organization.

Meetings are held every Sunday evening at 6:45, but since March 1949, the regular meetings are held every first and third Monday evening of the month consisting of one social evening during the month and one that deals with Christian living.

At different times during the year special programs were put on by the young people to raise money to purchase needed articles for the church. With this money the society purchased the first bulletin board that was used in Sunday School, the First Christian and American flags, and some of the offering plates.

The members of this organization have helped in presenting the Easter Sunrise Services and have also been active during the summer months in young people's assemblies. We are proud to say that the first Young People's Assembly of this district was



## GLEANERS SEWING CLUB

February 1943 a group of eleven women of the church met at the home of Mrs. C. J. Herr to organize a Sewing Club. The object of the club was to spend an afternoon socially in the homes of members while each member worked on her own fancy-work. At each meeting each lady was to make a contribution of one dollar. This fund was to purchase something for the church. Mrs. Ernest W. Herr has been acting as treasurer. Membership has been from eight to eighteen. Today's membership includes five of the charter members.



### COMMISSIONED BAPTIST YOUTH

Reading left to right, back row: Cynthia Quatier (secretary), Dwight Herr, Gary Weisser (vice pres.), Robert Woehl, LeRoy Hagel (treas.) Middle row: Marilyn Klein, Jean Ritter (pres.), Mike Herr, Douglas Kramer (reporter), Duane Kettlering, Ronny Rudolf First row: Bernice Bettenhausen, Betty Woehl, Mac Rae Aipperspach, Geraldine Kramer, Sandra Hagel Missing: Mike Bailey, Jerry Moser, and John Ammon Advisor: Rev. Carl Weisser

held in Wishek many years ago under the leadership of Rev. A. A. Schade.

The Baptist Young Peoples Union (B.Y.P.U.) has changed its name to Commissioned Baptist Youth Fellowship (C.B.Y.F.) since November of 1949.

During the last few years the C.B.Y.F. has occasionally taken part in the Sunday evening services. It was under the leadership of Rev. L. O. Wahl that different parties and outings were resumed. We experienced wonderful times together. Also during this time Mrs. Wahl started Pioneer Girls work among the Junior and Senior girls.

It is under the leadership of Rev. Carl Weisser that the Junior Young People's work was revived because there was no Pioneer work for the boys. Rev. Weisser is assisted by Edna Ritter in C.B.Y.F. and Mrs. Weisser with the help of Mrs. Charles Bertenhause, Mrs. J. J. Kramer and Mrs. Ben Aipperspach is carrying on the Junior C.B.Y.F. work.

We as young people feel that God has blessed us and we pray that we may be of greater service to Him in the years to come.



### COMBINED JUNIOR CHOIR AND JUNIOR C.B.Y.

Reading from left to right, back row: Donna Hagel, Carol Bender (vice pres.), Noreen Weisser (treas.), Linda Hagel (sec.), Geraldine Kramer, Sandra Hagel Mrs. Carl Weisser (director and advisor), Douglas Hoffman, Ronald Kettlering, Dean Hoffman, Mike Aipperspach, James Ritter (pres.), Roger Bettenhausen, Steven Ritter, Noland Weisser, Jeffrey Schauer, Bruce Schauer, Steven Bettenhausen, Clyde Kramer, Claude Aipperspach, Lee Aipperspach Karen Schauer, Candice Mehlhaff, Louise Aipperspach, Conny Bender, Royann Schilling



## STATISTICAL REPORT

Statistical records during the church's life in three twenty-five year periods ending as follows: first period, 1886-1911, the silver anniversary; second period, 1911-1936, the golden anniversary, and third period, 1936-1961, diamond anniversary.

### MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

#### Summarized

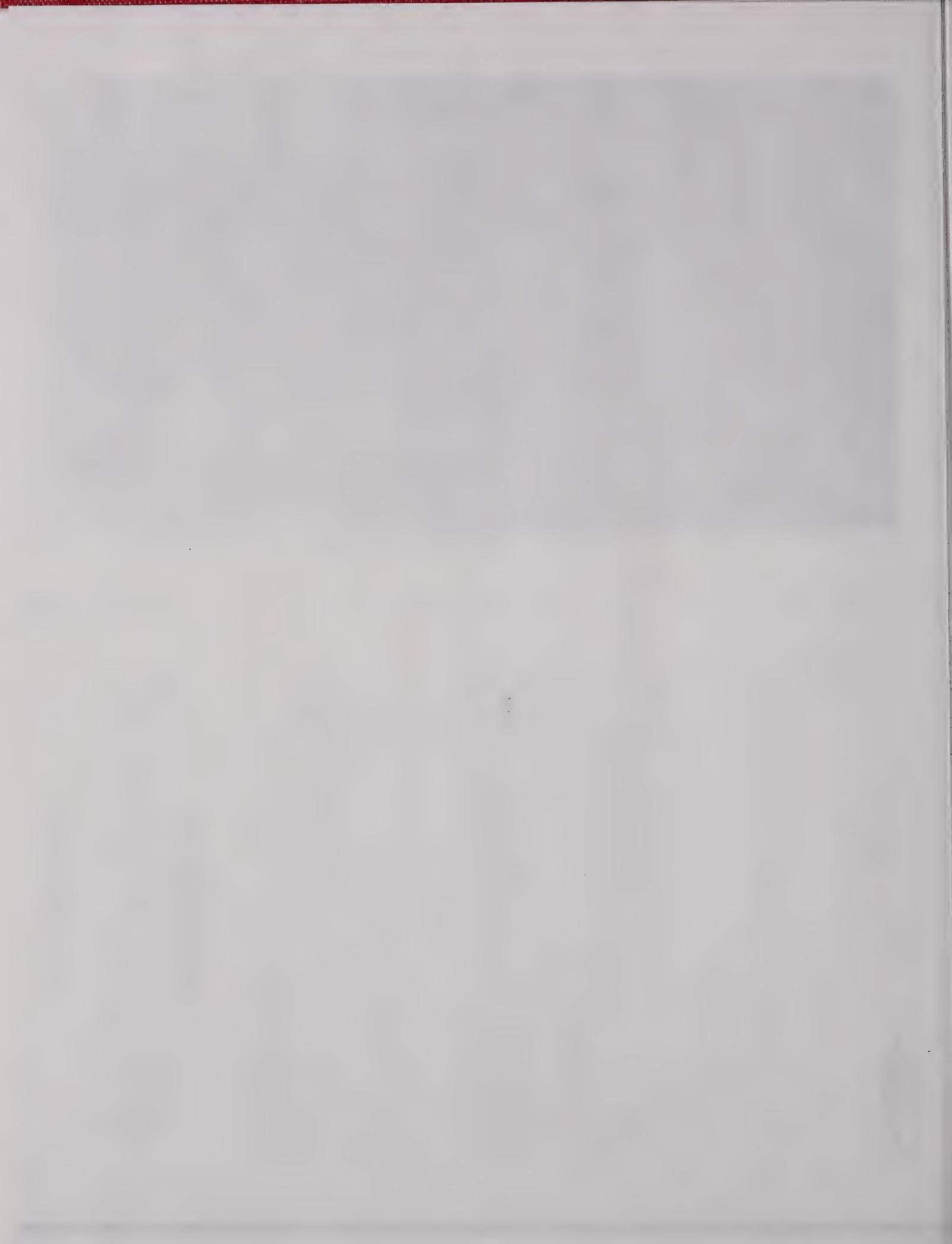
|                               | Gains      |            |            | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
|                               | 1st Period | 2nd Period | 3rd Period |       |
| Charter members               | 15         |            |            | 15    |
| Baptisms                      | 273        | 276        | 226        | 775   |
| Letters from Baptist churches | 124        | 119        | 72         | 315   |
| Reinstatements                | 21         | 51         | 26         | 98    |
| Adjustments                   | 6          | 0          | 11         | 17    |
| TOTALS                        | 439        | 446        | 335        | 1220  |

#### Losses

|                             | 1st Period | 2nd Period | 3rd Period | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Letters to Baptist churches | 133        | 217        | 221        | 571   |
| Exclusions                  | 44         | 75         | 53         | 172   |
| Erasure                     | 6          | 57         | 78         | 141   |
| Deaths                      | 14         | 38         | 48         | 100   |
| Adjustments                 | 10         | 16         | 16         | 42    |
| TOTALS                      | 207        | 403        | 416        | 1026  |
| Present membership          |            |            |            | 194   |
| TOTAL                       |            |            |            | 1220  |



Picture of the Congregation October 1961



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Summarized Financial Statement of local and missionary efforts in the church's operation in each of the three periods and grand totals. Combined effort of the church and branches.

|                            | SILVÉR<br>1886-1911 | GOLDEN<br>1911-1936 | DIAMOND<br>1936-1961 | TOTAL               |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Local .....                | \$18,079.64         | \$64,080.19         | \$220,648.73         | \$302,808.56        |
| Mission .....              | 4,752.84            | 27,892.65           | 49,434.29            | 82,079.78           |
| <b>TOTALS .....</b>        | <b>\$22,832.48</b>  | <b>\$91,972.84</b>  | <b>\$270,083.02</b>  | <b>\$384,888.34</b> |
| Church .....               | 22,674.97           | 77,521.26           | 217,850.37           | 318,046.60          |
| Sunday School ..           | 157.51              | 8,588.78            | 33,965.47            | 42,711.76           |
| Women's<br>Mission Soc. .. |                     | 5,149.70            | 10,943.96            | 16,093.66           |
| Dorcas Society ..          |                     |                     | 2,127.36             | 2,127.36            |
| Com. B. Y. ....            |                     | 713.10              | 2,776.81             | 3,489.91            |
| Gleaners .....             |                     |                     | 1,650.00             | 1,650.00            |
| D.V.B.S., School           |                     |                     | 331.56               | 331.56              |
| Special .....              |                     |                     | 437.49               | 437.49              |
|                            | <b>\$22,832.48</b>  | <b>\$91,972.84</b>  | <b>\$270,083.02</b>  | <b>\$384,888.34</b> |

Column 1   Column 2   Column 3   Column 4

Column 1, 2, and 3 represents a quarter of a century each and column 4 the total of the three periods and the \$384,888.34 is the grand total of all efforts combined of the church and branches.

1886  1961



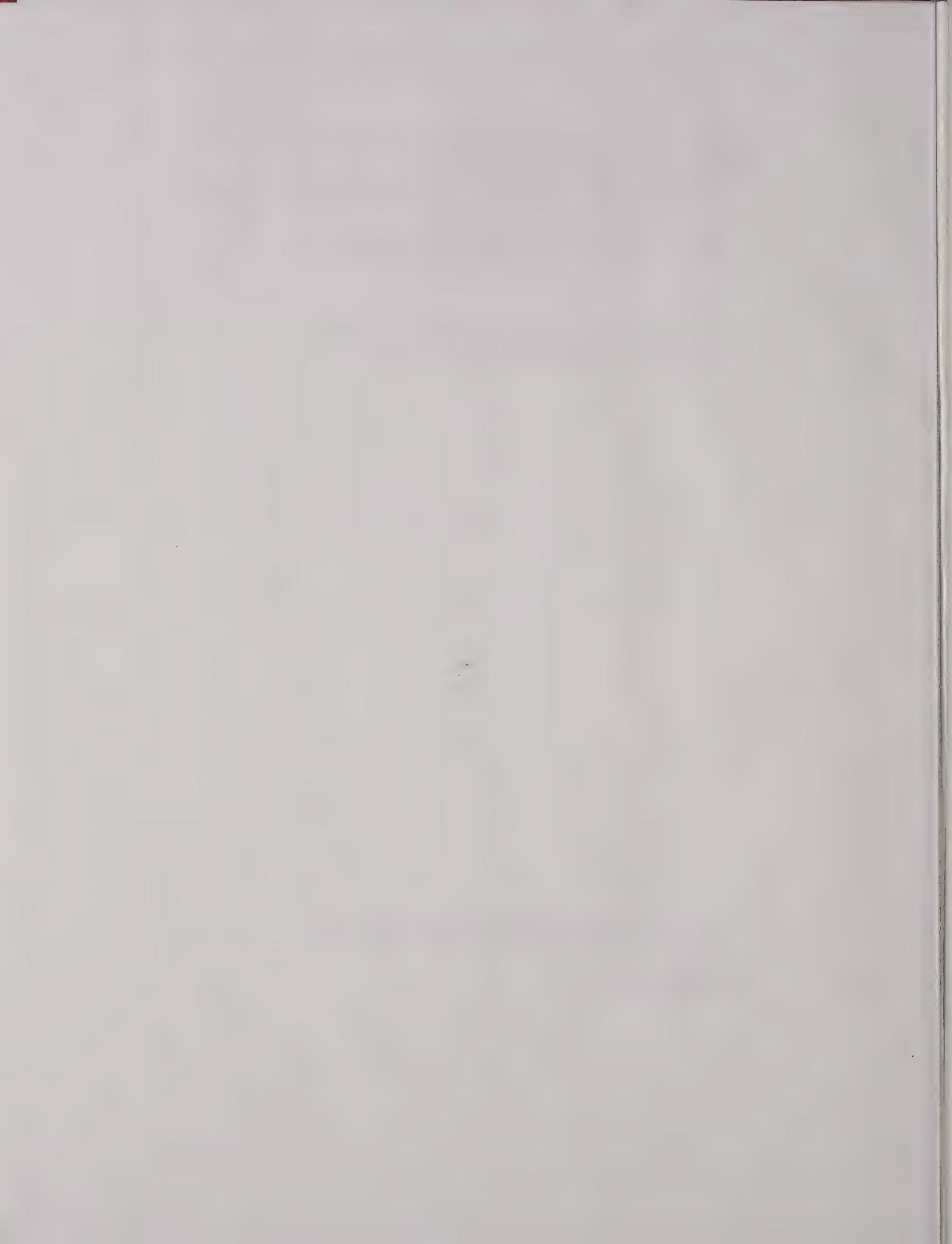
Honorable mention is made of the following who have held office within our church organization for 25 years or more:

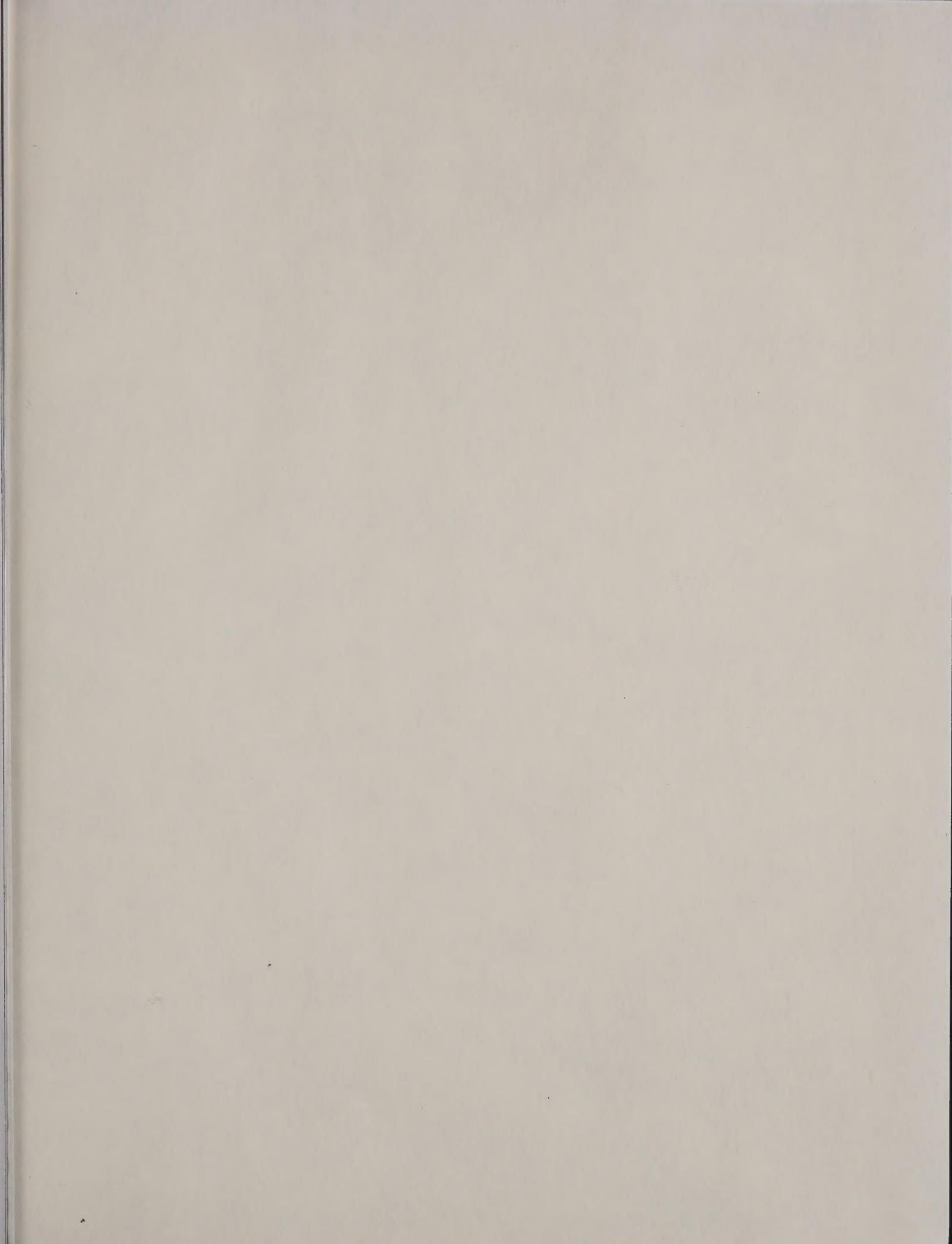
George Herr Sr., secretary, and Christian J. Herr, deacon. Both of these have gone to collect their reward for faithful service.  
Edward Herr, church treasurer  
Dr. W. H. Mehlhaff, Sunday School teacher  
Esther W. Herr, both as Sunday School teacher and church pianist  
Ernest W. Herr, Sunday School Superintendent

Your history book committee gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of all those who helped gather data and gave useful information for this book.

The following have made the printing of this book possible:  
T. T. Donner, Edward Herr, David Quatier, Lawrence Quatier

1886  1961







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